

# CITY SOJOURN

BY THOMAS CONNORS

*Departing from North Shore Life  
with a pied-à-terre*



The Ritz-Carlton Residences are spanking new, but designer Frank Ponterio's richly layered design scheme suggests a space that has evolved impressively over time.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY TONY SOLARI



// The well-appointed bedroom features an iron-framed bed with upholstered headboard from Ponterio's new furniture line. While these interiors ride on a muted color palette, the disparate lines of the individual furniture pieces give the apartment an engaging visual energy

Who doesn't like a nice hotel? You don't have to make the bed, and dinner appears almost magically, on a tray. But for all its comforts, hotel life can get tiring. No matter how nice the accommodations, even a suite at a five-star property still isn't home. And for those whose business or social life takes them into town on a regular basis, nothing beats a *pied-à-terre*.

As a place to refresh after a business meeting, change before dinner, and get a good night's sleep after the opera (rather than fighting to keep one's eyes open at the wheel, headed for home), city digs—no matter how compact—can be among a suburbanite's sweetest luxuries. In fact, a little goes a long way when you're talking about an apartment or condo that effectively functions as a crash pad. Well, a very nice crash pad.

Designing a sumptuous, one-bedroom model unit in the recently opened Ritz-Carlton Residences on North Michigan Avenue, Frank Ponterio imagined himself living there. "I live in Lake Forest, in a David Adler house from the 1920s, and it's very much a country home. I wanted a departure from that."

The look he opted for is "clean, but classic, and decidedly masculine." Perhaps most importantly, in a gesture that keeps the unit from appearing anything at all like a hotel suite

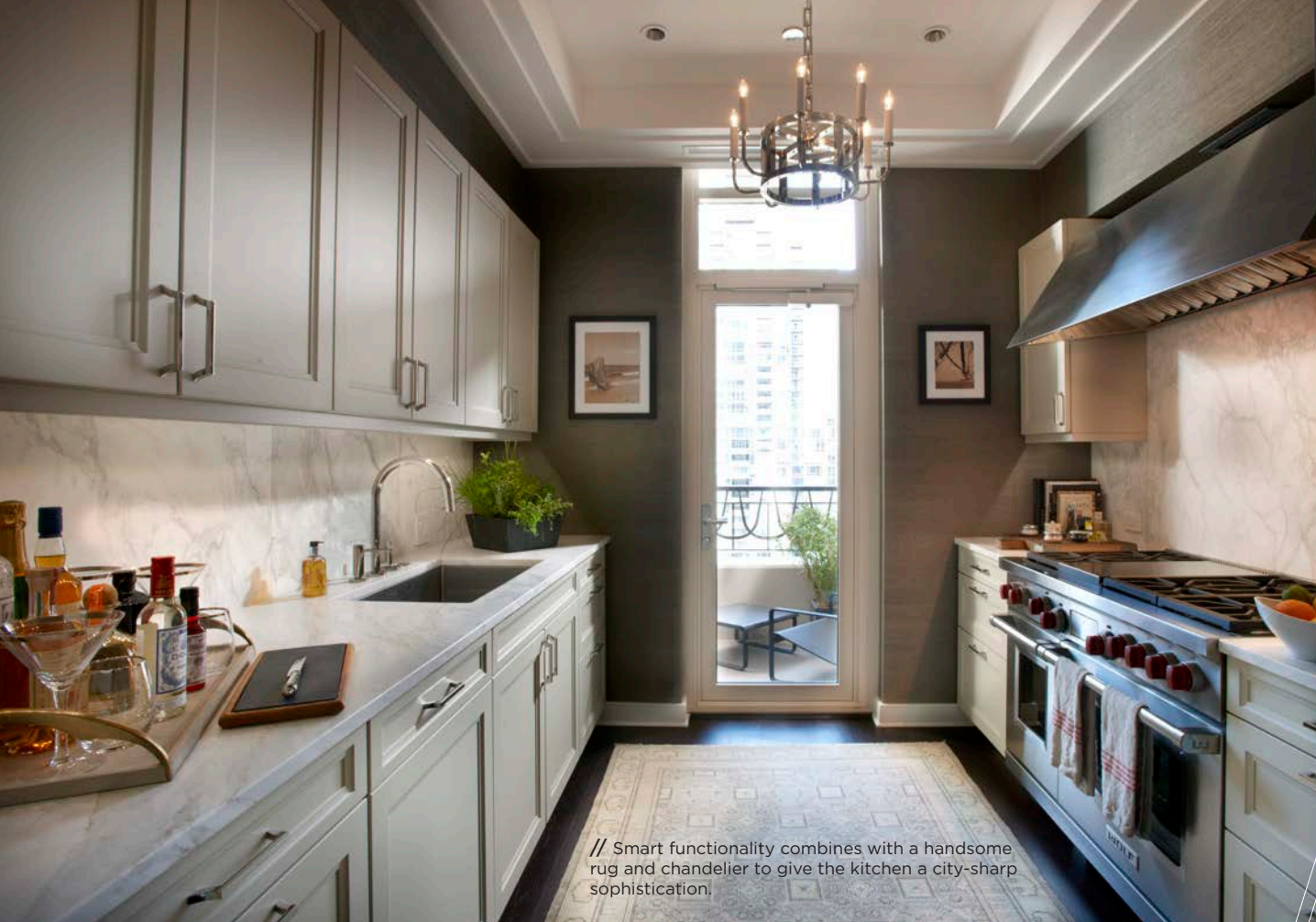
(even a grandly appointed one), Ponterio employed a varied palette of fabrics and furnishings to give the space the sense of a personal stamp, as if the belongings assembled there had been gathered over time.

"In imagining it as my own, I wanted it to reflect my experiences and taste," he relates. "So there are leather and mohair club chairs reminiscent of French designer Jean-Michel Frank, and sconces I designed that evoke a French salon of the 1930s. And, while I wanted a masculine esthetic, I didn't want things to read too flat visually. So, for example, I used a sofa with a little more feminine line done in a bit more delicate material, a silk velvet."

Set with plenty of seating—including a good reading chair—and a dining table, the light-filled living room offers an abbreviated, but more-than-sufficient rendition of the spaces found in a much larger residence. "With any project, the first thing we do is determine the program, try to understand how the space will be used," says Ponterio. "I have an office in Lake Forest and one in the city, and if

this were my place, I would probably end up here once a week. I'd probably eat out, so the kitchen would only come into play for coffee and perhaps entertaining with cocktails. And I wouldn't worry too much about closet space. I might need a spot for a suitcase, but my wardrobe here would be limited to a few suits and shirts, some jeans, a couple of pair of shoes."

A *pied-à-terre* not only offers one the joy of experiencing the city in a more leisurely, intimate way, but for those who love a decorating project, it's a wonderful opportunity to exercise their passion. While some folks will attempt to recreate the look and mood of their favorite hotel, others will be tempted to decorate just as they have in the primary residence. But, as Ponterio observes, more and more people are willing to journey a bit outside their comfort zone. "Your place in town should be functional, but fun," he urges. "It can be more fanciful, it can be more outside the box design-wise. I think more and more people are moving in that direction, where they want something different. And it should be a treat to go downtown." □



// Smart functionality combines with a handsome rug and chandelier to give the kitchen a city-sharp sophistication.



## SOURCEBOOK

INTERIOR DESIGNER | Frank Ponterio, 847-234-5704, [frankponterio.com](http://frankponterio.com)

ARTWORK AND FRAMING | Daniel Kinkade Art Consultants, [danielkinkade.com](http://danielkinkade.com)

## ENTRY/LIVING ROOM:

**Wrought iron console:** La Forge Français, [laforgefrancaise.com](http://laforgefrancaise.com)

**Ceiling fixture:** Niermann Weeks through Nancy Corzine, 312-645-4500, [nancycorzine.com](http://nancycorzine.com)

**Entry mirror:** Dessin Fournir, 312-661-0640, [dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Sofa:** Bradley Hughes, [bradley-hughes.com](http://bradley-hughes.com)

**Sofa fabric:** Manuel Canovas through Cowtan & Tout, 312-644-0717, [cowtanandtout.com](http://cowtanandtout.com)

**Throw pillow fabric:** Coraggio Textiles, 312-828-9930, [coraggio.com](http://coraggio.com)

**Pillow labor and embroidery:** Mia Tavola, 773-404-4901, [miatavola.com](http://miatavola.com)

**Throw pillow fabric:** Fortuny, [fortuny.com](http://fortuny.com)

**Throw pillow trim:** Rogers and Goffigon Ltd. through Cowtan & Tout, 312-644-0717, [cowtanandtout.com](http://cowtanandtout.com)

**Pillow labor:** Primo Interiors, 773-880-8042, [primointeriors.com](http://primointeriors.com)

**Iron coffee table:** Frank Ponterio for Avrett, [avrett.com](http://avrett.com)

**Lounge chairs:** Dessin Fournir, 312-661-0640, [dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Fabric on seat and back:** Coraggio Textiles, 312-828-9930, [coraggio.com](http://coraggio.com)

**Leather on frame:** Holly Hunt, 312-661-1900, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Wood and steel side table:** Caste through Holly Hunt, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Table lamp:** Michael-Cleary Chicago, [michaelclearyllc.com](http://michaelclearyllc.com)

**Two-arm sconces:** Frank Ponterio for Avrett, [avrett.com](http://avrett.com)

**Round side table:** Rose Tarlow through Holly Hunt Chicago, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Wing chair and custom ottoman:** Dessin Fournir, [dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Fabric:** Rose Cumming through Dessin Fournir, 312-661-0640 [dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Leather piping:** Samuel & Sons, [samuelandsons.com](http://samuelandsons.com)

**Iron side table:** Avrett through John Rosselli, 312-822-0760, [johnrosselliassociates.com](http://johnrosselliassociates.com)

**Custom walnut cabinet:** Frank Ponterio Collection, [frankponterio.com](http://frankponterio.com)

**Mirror:** Formations through Holly Hunt, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Dining table:** Michael Taylor, [michaeltaylor designs.com](http://michaeltaylor designs.com)

**Dining chairs:** Niermann Weeks through Nancy Corzine, 312-645-4500, [nancycorzine.com](http://nancycorzine.com)

**Demilune cabinet:** Dessin Fournir, [dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Drapery:** Schumacher & Co., 312-527-4650, [fschumacher.com](http://fschumacher.com)

**Drapery workroom:** Primo Interiors, 773-880-8042, [primointeriors.com](http://primointeriors.com)

**Wallcovering:** Phillip Jeffries through Holly Hunt Chicago, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Rug:** J. Iloulian Rugs, 323-651-0993, [jirugs.com](http://jirugs.com)

**Artwork:** Hiro Yokose, Winston Wachter Fine Art through Joanna Burke Art Consultants, [joannaburke.com](http://joannaburke.com)

Shane Guffogg, Bert Green Fine Art through Joanna Burke Art Consultants, [joannaburke.com](http://joannaburke.com)

## POWDER ROOM:

**Sconces:** Jonathan Browning Inc. through Holly Hunt Chicago, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Mirror:** Bradley Hughes, [bradleyhughes.com](http://bradleyhughes.com)

**Wallcovering:** de Gournay through Dessin Fournir, [dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Custom tile floor:** The Fine Line, 312-670-0300, [finelinetile.com](http://finelinetile.com)

## KITCHEN:

**Wall covering:** Phillip Jeffries through Holly Hunt, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Chandelier:** Remains Lighting, 312-527-1300, [remains.com](http://remains.com)

## MASTER BEDROOM:

**Wall covering for upholstered vestibule walls:** Bart Halpern through Donghia, 312-822-0766, [donghia.com](http://donghia.com)

**Custom wall upholstery in vestibule:** Upholstered Walls by Anne Marie, 847-202-0642, [wallsbyannemarie.com](http://wallsbyannemarie.com)

**Custom steel bed and upholstered headboard:** Frank Ponterio for Avrett, [avrett.com](http://avrett.com)

**Headboard fabric:** Andrew Martin through Anthony Inc., [anthonyinc.net](http://anthonyinc.net)

**Mattress:** Vi-Spring Coronet Supreme, Chicago Luxury Beds, 312-527-5337, [chicagoluxurybeds.com](http://chicagoluxurybeds.com)

**Custom duvet cover and bedding:** Mia Tavola, 773-404-4901, [miatavola.com](http://miatavola.com)

**Sham fabric:** Schumacher & Co, 312-527-4650, [fschumacher.com](http://fschumacher.com)

**Sham trim:** Samuel & Sons, [samuelandsons.com](http://samuelandsons.com)

**Sham labor:** Primo Interiors, 773-880-8042, [primointeriors.com](http://primointeriors.com)

**Writing table, desk chair, and bedside table:** Dessin Fournir, [dessinfournir.com](http://dessinfournir.com)

**Bedside lamps:** Nancy Corzine, 312-645-4500, [nancycorzine.com](http://nancycorzine.com)

**Bronze and wood console:** Frank Ponterio for Avrett, [avrett.com](http://avrett.com)

**Upholstered benches:** George Smith, 312-464-0242, [georgesmith.com](http://georgesmith.com)

**Lucite side table and floor lamp:** Filsinger Chicago, 312-245-0404, [filsingerchicago.com](http://filsingerchicago.com)

**Light fixture:** Jean de Merry, [jeandemerry.com](http://jeandemerry.com)

## Artwork:

Jonathan Higgins, Manneken Press gallery through Joanna Burke Art Consultants, [joannaburke.com](http://joannaburke.com)

**Drapery fabric:** de la Cuona, [delecuona.co.uk](http://delecuona.co.uk)

**Drapery labor:** Primo Interiors, 773-880-8042, [primointeriors.com](http://primointeriors.com)

**Sisal carpeting:** Design Materials, [designmaterials.com](http://designmaterials.com)

**Wall treatment:** Rose Tarlow Melrose House, Mineral Lime Wash, [rosetarlow.com](http://rosetarlow.com)

## MASTER BATHROOM:

**Master bath shade:** Le Crin through Holly Hunt, [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com)

**Master bath picture light:** Galleries des Lampes, [galeriedeslampes.com](http://galeriedeslampes.com)

**Bench:** Waterworks, 312-527-4668, [waterworks.com](http://waterworks.com)

## MASTER CLOSET:

**Custom cabinetry:** O'Brien Harris, 312-464-9460, [obrienharris.com](http://obrienharris.com)

**Hardware:** The Nanz Company Nanz, 312-527-1300, [nanz.com](http://nanz.com)

**Ceiling light fixture:** Hector Finch through Michael-Cleary, [michaelclearyllc.com](http://michaelclearyllc.com)

## TERRACE:

**Chair and ottoman:** Janus et Cie, 312-822-0460, [janusetcie.com](http://janusetcie.com)

**Stone side table:** Michael Taylor, 312-828-0488, [michaeltaylor designs.com](http://michaeltaylor designs.com)